

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ER, GE, GW, WB

SUBJECT: MARCH 14 TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING

REF: BONN 2607

1. FONOFF SOURCE CLOSE TO FRG TRANSIT COMMISSION DEL HAS TOLD US FRG LEADER WULF MADE STRONG STATEMENT AT MARCH 14 MEETING REFUTING GDR CONTENTION THAT ITS RECENT ACTIONS ALONG TRANSIT ROUTES TO BERLIN WERE SUPPORTABLE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW (REFTEL). WULF STATED FLATLY THAT MANY GDR ACTIONS DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR HAD CLEARLY BEEN VIOLATIONS OF QA AND TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT AND THAT UNDER NO SUCH GENERAL PRECEPTS AS THOSE CITED BY GDR REPS COULD THEIR ACTIONS BE CONDONED. WHAT THE GDR COULD DO IN SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUAL CASES, WULF ADDED, WAS "BROADLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY" SET OUT IN THE TTA. WULF THEN HANDED GDR DEL A WRITTEN COPY OF HIS STATEMENT. OUR SOURCE SAID FRG EXPECTS GDR DEL CHIEF FRIEDERICH TO RETURN TO THE ATTACK AT NEXT TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING APRIL

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25. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THE REST OF THE MARCH 14

SESSION WAS TAKEN UP WITH THE NORMAL BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION, WHICH IN PRACTICE HAS BECOME MUTUAL COMPLAINTS AND DISCUSSION IN INDIVIDUAL CASES. IT APPEARS THE HEAT IS NEARLY OUT OF THIS ISSUE, AT LEAST IN THE TRANSIT COMMISSION FORUM.

2. OUR IMPRESSION IS TO SOME EXTENT STRENGTHENED BY STATEMENTS MADE MARCH 15 BY VARIOUS OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD NOTED SIMPLY THAT THE RECENT EVENTS OF JAN 26, FEB 16, AND MARCH 4 HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, AND WOULD COME UP AGAIN AT THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING. THE TRANSPORT MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID, ACCORDING TO A DPA ACCOUNT, THAT THE FRG HAS NO REASON TO DOUBT THE GDR'S EXPLANATIONS DURING THE MARCH 14 MEETING OF THE TRANSIT COMMISSION REGARDING TRAFFIC HOLDUPS ON TRANSIT ROUTES ON 16 FEB AND 4 MARCH. HE NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT THE HOLDUP AT THE WEST BERLIN CHECKPOINT DREWITZ ON 16 FEB WAS EXPLAINED BY THE GDR REP AT THE COMMISSION MEETING AS BEING DUE TO A "HUNDRED PERCENT INCREASE" IN BUSES. THE GDR BORDER OFFICIALS THOUGHT THEY HAD TO DEAL WITH THE BUSES BEFORE THE OTHER VEHICLES. THE TWENTY-MINUTE RED AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN MARIENBORN ON MARCH 4 HAD BEEN DUE TO A SHORT CIRCUIT IN THE ELECTRICITY NET DURING ROADWORK COMMENT: THIS REPRESENTS CONTINUATION OF THE FRG POLICY OF TOUGH STATEMENTS IN THE COMMISSION MEETINGS, WHILE SOFT-PEDALLING THE TRANSIT DIFFICULTIES IN PUBLIC UTTERANCES. HILLENBRAND

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